GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1938
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2007
IRON ORE
Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the iron ore is exported with long term agreement in lieu of coking coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the agreement in view of the comfortable reserve of coking coal in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also proposes to ban the export of iron ore gradually; and

(f) if so, the steps likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e)&(f) The existing iron ore export policy regulates and promotes judicious use of iron ore for domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity. Production of iron ore is in excess of current domestic demand. Besides, the surplus iron ore fines produced during mining as well as sizing and calibrating lumpy ore has to be evacuated, failing which it would lead to curtailment of production resulting in unemployment predominantly in tribal areas, increased cost of production, reduction in economic activities and export earnings in addition to causing environmental hazards.